Will the Government be pleased to state :—

What action they propose to take on the Gundappa Gowda Committee Report on Land Reforms ?

A.—Sri Kadidal MANJAPPA (Minister for Revenue and Public Works).—

The Report of the Committee is under examination and action is being taken on the several recommendations of the L.R.R. Committee.

Audit of the accounts of the Local Self-Government Institutions.

Q.—520. Sri B. N. BORANNA GOWDA (Belur).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the procedure adopted for the audit of the accounts of the Local Self-Government Institutions in the State, *viz.*, Municipalities and District Boards ;

(*b*) once in how many years auditing is being done ;

(*c*) whether there are any accounts in the District Boards and Municipalities which have not been audited for over ten years ;

(*d*) how many years back the accounts of the District Board, Hassan, were audited ?

A.—Sri T. CHANNIAH (Minister for Public Health and Local Self-Government).—

(*a*) The audit of the accounts of Local Bodies is entrusted to the Controller, State Accounts Department, who is assisted by three Circle Officers having jurisdiction over three districts each as noted below. Detailed local audit of the accounts of the institutions is conducted by the Auditors of the Department under the general supervision of the Controller and Circle Officers :—

Bangalore Circle.—Bangalore, Kolar and Tumkur Districts ;

Mysore Circle.—Mysore, Hassan and Mandya Districts ;

Shimoga Circle.—Shimoga, Chitaldrug and Chikmagalur Districts.

(*b*) Audit is conducted once a year.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The accounts of the District Board, Hassan, for the years 1949-50 and 1950-51 are now under audit.

PRIVILEGE MOTION. *re* ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 217.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Sri J. Mohamed Imam and Sri S. Srinivasa Iyengar have given notice of a Privilege motion in the following terms :—

> " This House resolves that the answer furnished by the Government to Question No. 217 (Part III) referring the members of this House to the various previous Budget statements, instead of giving specific answers on each point raised therein, constitutes a breach of privilege of members of this House ".

Under rule 173 (4) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, it is the duty of the Speaker to first determine whether the motion involves a *prima facie* case of privilege before referring the question to the Committee of Privileges.

I might at once state that the Chair has no responsibility in regard to answers furnished by the Government. The Chair has no authority to insist that answer be given or that any particular or specific answer be furnished to any question. There are several rulings of other Legislatures and even of our Legislature in the past on this question, but I may refer to only one of them. In the Central Legislative Assembly on the 20th February 1939 when a member objected to a particular answer and asked the Chair " May I ask, Sir, as regard the way in which these questions are answered that you should direct the Government to answer the questions that are put to them ? ", the President observed " Hon'ble Member knows very well that the Chair has no such function at all. If the Hon'ble Member finds that the answer is not satisfactory it is up to him to find any remedy he can. The Chair has no authority in the matter. "

(MR. SPEAKER)

Such being the position, it is impossible to hold that any case of breach of privilege has arisen. The unsatisfactory nature of a reply can never be the subject of a privilege motion or an adjournment motion. For these reasons I hold that no *prima facie* case of privilege has arisen requiring to be referred to a Committee.

I might, however, state that when this question came up for answer on the 22nd, I suggested to Government that they may furnish the detailed answer and I find that they have done so to-day just now. I may add that I consider it desirable that, as far as possible, Government should furnish complete and full answers to all questions which have been put by members and admitted by the Chair. The right to ask questions is a very valuable right of members and if this right should not become illusory it is necessary that Government should answer fully. This is, of course, subject to the well understood limitations of public interest and the like when Government may not be able to answer, in which case, the reason will have to be intimated to the House. On the other hand, it is equally necessary that members should not ask for information easily available in accessible documents. Such questions are not even admitted in other Legislatures. As we have no such prohibition in our rules, they have to be admitted here. But, I trust members will not put such questions.

1-30 P.M.

Mysore Appropriation (No. 3) Bill of 1952.

Recommendation by His Highness the Rajpramukh to introduce and move.

MR. SPEAKER.—The following communication has been received from His Highness the Rajpramukh :

"In pursuance of clause 1 of article 207 of the Constitution of India, I, Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, Maharaja of Mysore, do hereby recommend that the Mysore Appropriation (No. 3) Bill of 1952 be introduced and moved in the Mysore Legislative Assembly."

Programme of Business for the day and the next day.

SRI J. MOHAMED IMAM (Jagalur).—Befor proceeding further, may I ascertain through you the further programme of this session ? As it is, to-day was meant for non-official business and it has been taken over by the Government for official business without our knowledge and we have been taken rather by surprise. We would like to know what further business the Government have and what days they are going to allot for non-official business and how long this session is likely to continue. I think the Leader of the House can let us know the probable programme. We will also adjust our programme accordingly.

SRI B. HUTCHE GOWDA (Turuvekere).—We have sent a privilege motion.

MR. SPEAKER.—That is over. He said that he is not going to move it. He wants some information.

SRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA (Leader of the House).—After the Appropriation Bill is passed by this House, the rest of the day is open for non-official resolutions. If you think it desirable, to-morrow also, a morning session can be held and non-official business transacted.

MR. SPEAKER.—The Leader of the Opposition has heard the Leader of the House. The Appropriation Bill will be taken up for consideration now. After that is over, non-official business, that is, resolutions will be taken up today and continued tomorrow also.

SRI J. MOHAMED IMAM.—The whole of to-day is meant for the Appropriation Bill.

MR. SPEAKER.—I thought, with the implied consent of the House, this change may be made. Yesterday before the House rose for the day, I announced it. So the programme is known to us now.